

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 INT-08 EB-11 AF-10 ARA-16

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4454

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

CINCPACREP GUAM TTPI UNN

COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2173

CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI FOR HICOM AND STATUS LNO

COMTWELVE S.F. FOR AMB. WILLIAMS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, TQ

SUBJ: TTPI: 41ST/TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL IN RETROSPECT

SUMMARY: 41ST SESSION OF TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL CHARACTERIZED BY
MILD STATEMENTS FROM CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA REPS WHO PAID LITTLE
ATTENTION TO STATUS ISSUE, FORTHCOMING US POSITION ON PRE-
VIOUSLY CONTENTIOUS ISSUES, EXTREMELY CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDES
OF UK, FRENCH AND AUSTRALIAN DELEGATIONS AND RELATIVELY
LOW KEY SOVIET PARTICIPATION EXCEPT FOR CHARGE THAT US WOULD
VIOLATE UN CHARTER IF IT SEPARATED MARIANAS FROM MICRONESIA.

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END SUMMARY

1. SENATOR KENDALL'S REFERENCE TO JOINING FUTURE STATUS COMMITTEE NEGOTIATIONS COINCIDED REMARKABLY WITH US PRESENTATION AND APPEARED TO CONVEY TO OTHER DELEGATIONS IMPRESSION THAT FREE ASSOCIATION COMPACT MIGHT BE COMPLETED IN RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD. UK, FRENCH AND AUSTRALIAN DELEGATES, HOWEVER, PRIVATELY EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT OVER CONTRAST BETWEEN KENDALL'S STATEMENTS THAT TRUSTEESHIP MIGHT NOT BE TERMINATED UNTIL 1981 AND OUR REPEATED ASSERTION THAT WE WILLING TO MOVE JUST AS FAST AS MICRONESIANS WISH. ALSO NOTABLE THIS YEAR WAS LACK OF DISCUSSION OF INDEPENDENCE ALTERNATIVE IN COM STATEMENTS. FRENCH REP DELATAILLADE COMMENTED THAT US AND MICRONESIANS APPEAR AT LAST TO BE HEADED IN SAME DIRECTION.

2. ON OTHER HAND, MICRONESIANS ARGUED VERY PERSUASIVELY THAT THEY SHOULD BE GRANTED CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF SELF-GOVERNMENT WELL BEFORE TERMINATION OF TRUSTEESHIP. TC RECOMMENDATIONS REFLECT COM EMPHASIS ON GREATER CONTROL OVER BUDGET, RESTRICTION OF SECRETARY OF INTERIOR'S VETO POWER AND APPOINTMENT OF MICRONESIANS TO HIGH COURT. COM REPS MADE NO MENTION OF MARSHALLESE SEPARATION AND EVEN MARSHALLESE SENATOR KENDALL DID NOT DWELL ON BIKINI. OTHER DELEGATIONS PRESSED ON MARSHALLESE SEPARATISM BUT WERE WELL SATISFIED WITH US REAFFIRMATION OF SUPPORT FOR UNITY OF MARSHALLS AND CAROLINES, UNDERLINED BY AMB. WILLIAMS' PRESS STATEMENT MAY 15. TIMELY INTERIOR LETTER ON BIKINI COMPENSATION AND AEC RESTATEMENT OF EVIDENCE THAT BIKINI SAFE FOR RESETTLEMENT DEFUSED WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN BIG PROPAGANDA ISSUES FOR SOVIETS. OUR POSITIVE ACTIONS IN PAST YEAR WITH RESPECT TO LIBERALIZATION OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT, RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS AND CONVOKING OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION REMOVED FROM COM LITANY OF GRIEVANCES AGAINST ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY ISSUES WHICH HAD PROVOKED LENGTHY DEBATE AT PREVIOUS COUNCIL SESSIONS.

3. UK, FRANCE AND AUSTRALIA STRESSED TO US REPS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THEY IMPRESSED BY PROGRESS IN TWO SETS OF STATUS NEGOTIATIONS AND NEW ROLE OF MICRONESIA ON INTERNATIONAL SCENE (ECAFE, UNDP, LAW OF THE SEA, FUTURE ADB MEMBERSHIP). THEY LIVED UP TO THEIR ADVANCE PROMISES OF COOPERATION TO CONFIDENTIAL

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GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE WITH US THIS SESSION AND AT LAST ACCEPTED REALITY OF SEPARATE STATUS FOR MARIANAS. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH MISOFFS, HOWEVER, OFFICERS OF ALL THREE DELEGATIONS EMPHASIZED NEED FOR US TO DEMONSTRATE TO TC (AND EVENTUALLY TO SECURITY COUNCIL) THAT (1) PEOPLE OF MARIANAS HAD CHANCE OF AND REJECTED STATUS CHOSEN BY REST OF MICRONESIA AND (2) REPRESENTATIVES OF MICRONESIA (PREFERABLY COM) DO NOT OBJECT TO MARIANAS "GOING THEIR OWN WAY". SPECIFICALLY, THEY

URGED THAT MARIANAS BE GIVEN CHANCE TO VOTE ON FREE ASSOCIATION COMPACT EITHER BEFORE OR AT SAME TIME THEY PRESENTED WITH COMMONWEALTH AGREEMENT. THEY ALSO ASKED FOR PUBLICLY -- AND WERE GIVEN BY US -- ASSURANCES THAT USG WELCOMES UN PRESENCE AT EVENTUAL ACTS OF SELF-DETERMINATION. LITTLE DISCUSSION OF FORM OF PLEBISCITE, ALTHOUGH TC FINAL REPORT REFERS TO ISSUE INDIRECTLY WITH RECOMMENDATION THAT "THE TERMS OF THE CONSULTATION WILL BE CLEARLY DEFINED AND THAT NO ALTERNATIVE, INCLUDING INDEPENDENCE, WILL BE RULED OUT."

4. RELATIVELY RESTRAINED SOVIET PRESENTATION (SEE SEPTTEL) REASSERTED THEIR BELIEF IN INDEPENDENCE AS LOGICAL OUTCOME FOR ALL "COLONIAL" TERRITORIES BUT DID NOT ATTACK FREE ASSOCIATION COMPACT AS SUCH. THEY CHARGED, HOWEVER, THAT RECENT PRIVATE TALKS BETWEEN AMB. WILLIAMS AND SEN. SALII CONSTITUTED SECRET NEGOTIATIONS WHICH PUT MICRONESIANS AT "DISADVANTAGE". SOVIETS SAVED MOST OF THEIR FIRE FOR MARIANAS SEPARATISM, HOWEVER, REMINDING OTHER TC MEMBERS THAT SECURITY COUNCIL (WHERE THEY HAVE VETO) MUST APPROVE TERMINATION OF TRUSTEESHIP AND THAT, IN THEIR EYES, WE ENGINEERING SEPARATE MARIANAS STATUS IN ORDER TO INCORPORATE ISLANDS INTO US AGAINST WILL OF REST OF MICRONESIA. WHILE SOVIETS DID NOT PUSH POINT TOO HARD, THEY MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE WILL EVENTUALLY NEED TACIT ACCEPTANCE BY COM OR JFSC OF SEPARATE MARIANAS STATUS IF WE ARE TO ENTERTAIN ANY HOPE OF USSR ACQUIESCENCE IN COMMONWEALTH ACCORD.

5. CHINESE AGAIN DID NOT PARTICIPATE, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE THEY CHOSE NOT TO CHALLENGE US ON THIS ISSUE.

6. FOR FIRST TIME SEVERAL MICRONESIANS ON DEPARTMENT'S INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM ROUTED TO NEW YORK EXPRESSLY FOR COUNCIL SESSION. THEY APPEARED TO FOLLOW PROCEEDINGS WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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INTENSE INTEREST. THEIR PRESENCE AT INFORMAL RECEPTIONS ALSO HELPED TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDINGS OF US-MICRONESIAN NEGOTIATIONS ON PART OF OTHER UN MEMBERS.
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